

Message Text

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11
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 /075 W
----- 079980

R 121022Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4204
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLTNPEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOGADISCIO 1474

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SO
SUBJECT: SOMALIS WARMLY EULOGIZE MAO

1. OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN SONNA ON SEPTEMBER 11 CARRIES LENGTHY EULOGY OF MAO TSE-TUNG WHICH IS GLOWING IN ITS PRAISE OF THE LATE CHINESE LEADER. REFERRING TO MAO AS "THE LAST OF THE GREAT COMMUNIST THINKERS," THE EULOGY STATES THAT HIS DEATH "HAS RENDERED AN ORPHAN THE WORLD'S MOST POPULOUS COUNTRY." THE ARTICLE PROVIDES A FAIRLY DETAILED ACCOUNT OF MAO'S EARLY LIFE AND, THOUGH TREATING THEM IN GENERAL TERMS, ALSO PRAISES HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE POST-INDEPENDENCE ERA. "IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF MAO TSE-TUNG, THE 800 MILLION CHINESE WOULD NOT HAVE ENJOYED THE(IR) PRESENT GOOD LIFE AND PEACE," SAID SONNA, ADDING THAT "THANKS TO CHAIRMAN MAO'S LEADERSHIP CHINA TODAY (HAS) MADE AMAZING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VICTORIES." SONNA CONCLUDES, "THE WORLD WILL NOT FAIL TO RECOGNIZE THAT MAO WAS THE GREATEST PROLETARIAN OF TODAY."

2. COMMENT: GSDR TREATMENT OF MAO'S DEATH IS FULLER AND MORE EFFUSIVE THAN MIGHT BE EXPECTED FROM REGIME WHICH IS SO CLOSELY AND VOCIFEROUSLY ASSOCIATED WITH MOSCOW. IN ADDITION TO PRESS COVERAGE, GSDR HAS ORDERED SOMALI FLAGS TO BE FLOWN AT HALF-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STAFF DURING A WEEK-LONG MOURNING PERIOD. END COMMENT.

JACOBS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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